

Interpellation.

- (1) the number of posts available (permanent or temporary) under each;
- (2) the number of applications received;
- (3) the full name, caste or nationality, educational and other qualifications of the applicants;
- (4) the date of receipt of the applications; and
- (5) how and when they are disposed of; and

call for a monthly or at least quarterly return being submitted to Government, without fail, so that they may be able to see the cause of the complaint at a glance and try to remove it at once to the satisfaction of the said communities?

3. III. It is widely felt that the present pay of the teachers of the Vernacular Schools, notwithstanding the minimum being raised to Rs. 12 per mensem recently, is too low. In view of this fact and considering the educational qualifications and the responsible task of teaching our young children entrusted to their hands, will the Government be pleased to further enhance their salary—not the minimum only but also in all grades up to the maximum, which, being at present Rs. 30 only, is itself very low indeed, and relieve the teachers from their present wretched condition which has been made worse by the current abnormally high prices of the necessities of life?

Have the Government already taken, or do they propose to take, any practical steps in this direction? If so, will the Government be pleased to say what they are and when they will have effect?

Mr. S. Adam-Sait.

4. I. (a) Will the Government be pleased to place on the table a detailed statement of the total number of Hindus, Christians and Mahomedans in the Public Service, drawing a salary of Rs. 10 and above, with their qualifications; also another statement showing the number of vacancies that occurred, new appointments created, the date of entertainment of the persons appointed permanently or acting, the date of confirmation, the prescribed qualifications for the posts, and the exemptions, if any, granted, during the last five years?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state the measures taken by them to remove the present disabilities of the very few qualified Mahomedans in the matter of appointments and to give proper encouragement to those that are in the service?

5. II. (a) Will the Government be pleased to state what action they have taken on the various representations made by some of the Members of the Sri Mulam

Answer.

The minimum pay of these teachers having been only recently raised, Government do not now propose to raise it further. The question of an increase in the higher grades will be considered.

Secretary Mr. S. Parameswara Aiyar.

First part. Information will be called for

Second part. It will not be possible to compile any reasonably short statement giving all the varied information required by the Member. As regards the qualifications prescribed for the several posts in the Government service, the Member is referred to the Public Service Notification published on pages 1119 to 1129 of Part I of the Gazette dated the 16th September 1919.

The question is too vague to admit of a definite answer; but the Government would assure the Member that every encouragement is being given to qualified and deserving Mahomedan employees.

Financial Secretary Mr. K. George.

The increase of expenditure on "Salaries" and "Establishment" in the past few years is partly due to the reorganisations of the

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Popular Assembly during its last five sessions regarding the excessive expenditure under the heading of "Salary" and "Establishment" in comparison with that of the sister States?

(b) If they have not taken any action, will the Government now at least be pleased to appoint a Committee consisting of Official and Non-Official Members to consider the present financial aspects of the State and to suggest measures to minimise the increasing expenditure with reference to the actual requirements of the State?

Mr. M. Subrahmanya Pillai.

6. I. (i). Will the Government be pleased to state the principles upon which the price of salt is fixed for issue from the Thamarakulam factories—the place of production—and from the salt depots at Quilon, Alleppey and Munambam? Is there any difference in price for salt of the same denomination in those places? If so, why?

(ii). If the price per maund of home salt for sale by the Government in the factories and salt depots be fixed uniformly with a view to cover the transport charges, on what principle are the licensees of the new factories allowed to have their selling price fixed for their portion of the salt for sale at the factories over and above the duty?

Answer.

various Departments, carried out with a view to improve their efficiency and to meet the rapidly growing cost of living and partly also to the remarkable increase in educational institutions in recent years. It must also be remembered that expenditure is bound to increase if we are to keep pace with the requirements of a progressive administration. Government, however, consider that there is scope for retrenchment in some of the Departments and they intend to go into this question as soon as possible.

The Government do not consider it necessary to appoint the suggested Committee.

Secretary Mr. S. Parameswara Aiyar.

The rates of sale price of home salt are fixed so as to cover the duty, the cost price or *kudivila* and transport, establishment and other contingent charges. The only place where home salt is now sold is Alleppey. The policy of the Government has been to fix a uniform price for salt in the factories and the depots. Accordingly, till Thulam 1094, there was no difference in the price of home salt at the factories and the depots. Thereafter, the price at the Alleppey depot was raised from Re. 1 as.-14 to Rs. 2-as. 7 per maund, in view partly to the increased transport charges of the salt and partly to the comparatively higher price at which Tuticorin salt was sold at Quilon. If the price of the home salt at Alleppey had not been raised and adjusted with reference to the price of foreign salt at Quilon, the cheaper home salt would be in such demand as could not adequately be met. Recently however, the price of home salt at Alleppey was reduced from Rs.-2-as.-7 to Rs. 2 per maund.

(ii), (iii), (iv) and (v).

The licensees of the new factories are allowed to sell their salt at the same price as that fixed by the Government, for the reason that, under the terms of the agreements executed by the licensees of the factories, they are bound not to sell their salt at a rate lower than that fixed for sale by Government. Further, the new licensees are given the benefit of the Government rate as part of their policy to encourage the industry locally.